

# The Word Wizard's Book of **PREFIXES** and **SUFFIXES**



**untie**

**dislike**



**handful**




**rewrite**



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# Wonderful words

Words are magical! They can make you disappear. They help you unlock treasures. They let you fly like superheroes. Words are helpful. They transport you to faraway lands. Then they return you home again. Words are useful. They let you ask questions and uncover answers. They help you unwrap secrets and retell stories. Words are wonderful!



## Beginnings and endings

Stories have magical beginnings and endings. They can start once upon a time. They can end happily ever after. Some words have magical beginnings and endings, too! They start with word parts called **prefixes**. They end with word parts called **suffixes**. Will you help the Word Wizards discover these magic words?



*Words keep you  
undercover!*



*Words let you  
reach for the sky!*



# Root words

Did you know that words are like plants? They have roots and can grow! **Root words** are the main parts of words. They carry the basic meaning and can stand alone. The words "grow" and "plant" are root words. They do not have prefixes or suffixes added to them.



*This flower has roots.  
Words have roots, too!*



*We find flowers in fields  
and gardens. We find  
root words everywhere!*

## Words grow

Words grow when we add prefixes and suffixes to them. The word "regrow" has the prefix "re." The word "plants" has the suffix "s." Learning how to add parts to root words helps your **vocabulary** grow. Your vocabulary is all the words you know and use.



*Flowers grow when we  
water them. Words grow  
when we add prefixes  
and suffixes to them.*



# What is a prefix?

A prefix is a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word. We add prefixes to change the meaning of words. Like words, each prefix has a meaning. The prefix "pre" means "before." The word "fix" means "to join." We can add "pre" to "fix" to make the word "prefix." The new word means to join something in front of something else. That is what we do with prefixes!



*These children go to preschool. They are too young for kindergarten.*

## Word Wizard in training

The Word Wizard needs your help to finish some **sentences**! Sentences are complete thoughts or ideas. Read the sentences below. They are missing some words. Point to a word on the list to fill in each blank. They all begin with the prefix "re." "Re" means "again." When you are finished, reread the sentences. The word "reread" means to read again.



recycle  
rebuild  
repay  
retell  
rewrite  
reuse



*Oh no! The dog ate my homework! Now I need to \_\_\_\_\_ it.*



*These boys are building a block tower. If it falls down, they will \_\_\_\_\_ it.*



# Changing the meaning

Some prefixes completely change the meaning of words. They make words that are the **opposite** of the root words. The prefixes "un" and "dis" both mean "not." The prefix "un" makes a happy girl unhappy. It lets you unlock a locked door. The prefix "dis" makes your little brother disagree with you. It makes ice cream quickly disappear!



*Do you think these kids agree or disagree?*

*Is the boy lucky or unlucky? Is the ice cream appearing or disappearing?*



## Word Wizard in training

Help the Word Wizard match up the words below. Some are root words. Others have prefixes. Use your finger to join words with opposite meanings. Can you discover all the answers?



clean  
like  
able  
obey  
pack  
honest

unable  
dishonest  
unclean  
unpack  
disobey  
dislike

*Does this girl like or dislike jam?  
Is her face clean or unclean?*





# What is a suffix?

A suffix is a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word. We add suffixes to change the meaning of words. We say, "A clown's unicycle has only one wheel. It is much easier to ride with training wheels!" The suffix "s" changes the meaning of the word "wheel." It changes it from **singular** to **plural**. Singular means only one. Plural means more than one.



## Plural nouns

We add the suffix "s" to **nouns**. Nouns name people, animals, places, things, or ideas. Some nouns have special rules. We must add the suffix "es" to make them plural. The chart shows which nouns follow this rule.

### Nouns end in

ch  
sh  
s  
ss  
x  
z

### Singular nouns

lunch, watch  
dish, crash  
bus, cactus  
dress, glass  
prefix, suffix  
buzz, quiz

### Plural nouns

lunches, watches  
dishes, crashes  
buses, cactuses  
dresses, glasses  
prefixes, suffixes  
buzzes, quizzes





# Time for tenses

Some suffixes tell us when things take place. We add these suffixes to **verbs**. Verbs are action words. The suffixes "s" and "ing" show action in the **present tense**. That means it is taking place right now. We say, "The girl jumps up and down. She is skipping rope." The verbs "jumps" and "skipping" are in the present tense.

We add the suffix "ed" to show actions in the **past tense**. Past tense means they have already taken place. We say, "The boy screamed when the frog hopped onto his nose." The verbs "screamed" and "hopped" are in the past tense.



## Root rules

Some root words have special rules. We must change the words when we add suffixes to them. This chart shows some of the rules.



### Types of root words

Root word ends in a silent "e"

Root word ends in a "y" and has a **consonant** before the "y"

Root word ends in a single consonant and has a single vowel before the last letter

### Rules

Drop the "e" before adding a suffix that begins with a **vowel**

Change the "y" to an "i" except when adding "ing"

Double the consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel

### Root words + suffixes

bake + ing  
dance + ing  
smile + ed  
use + ed

fly + ing  
hurry + ing  
carry + ed  
try + ed

begin + ing  
run + ing  
plan + ed  
shop + ed

### New words

baking  
dancing  
smiled  
used

flying  
hurrying  
carried  
tried

beginning  
running  
planned  
shopped



# With or without

Some suffixes tell how much of something there is. The suffix “less” means “without.” It tells us someone or something does not have any. If you are fearless, you have no fear. A fearless superhero is not afraid of anything! If something is spotless, it has no dirty spots. Not even a superhero could make it cleaner!



*These fearless superheroes will save the world!*

## Full house

The suffix “ful” means “full of.” It tells us someone or something has plenty. If you are hopeful, you have a lot of hope. If something is beautiful, it is full of beauty. The word “beauty” ends in the letter “y.” Remember that we change the “y” to an “i” before we add a suffix.



*This beautiful girl was hopeful she would get a kitten.*

*This colorful dog has spots—even when it is spotless!*



# I think I can

The suffix "able" means "able to be." We add it to words to show something can be done. We say, "The boy loves his teddy bear! It is huggable and lovable." The word "huggable" means good for hugging. We double the letter "g" because the suffix begins with a vowel. The word "lovable" means easy to love. We drop the silent "e" from "love" before we add the suffix.

*The boy's teddy is unbearably huggable!*

*This girl wants to teach her friends a lesson. Are they teachable?*



# Word Wizard

in training

The Word Wizard is unable to finish the sentences below. Are you able to help her? Point to a word from the list to fill in each blank. When the sentences are readable, read them out loud.

enjoyable movable  
washable valuable  
eatable closable

*This boy stuffed everything into his suitcase—even himself! Now it is not \_\_\_\_\_.*

*These girls are taking a trip. Luckily their heavy suitcase is still \_\_\_\_\_!*





# Break it down

Some words have prefixes and suffixes. They look big and hard to understand! We can break them down to find their meanings. Look at the word "unbreakable." The root word is "break." The prefix "un" means "not." The suffix "able" means it can be done. So the word "unbreakable" describes something you cannot break.



*This boy wants to open his piggy bank. Is it breakable or unbreakable?*

# Word Wizard in training

Help the Word Wizard break down some words. Read the sentences below. Study the red words in the sentences. What are the root words? What do the prefixes and suffixes mean? Then what do the whole words mean? Tell the Word Wizard how you discovered their meanings!



*This girl is putting on a puppet show. She is **retelling** a story she heard in school.*



*These boys squeezed into a small box. Now they are crowded and **uncomfortable**!*



# Grow your own words

Now it is your turn to be a Word Wizard! Get a piece of paper and a pencil. Choose a root word from the chart. Write it down. Add a prefix or suffix to it. You changed the word like magic!

Rewrite the same root word. Add a different prefix or suffix to it. Then retry it with a new root word. Choose one from the list. Or think of your own. You can make lots of magic words. You are remarkable! You are unstoppable! You are a Word Wizard!

## Prefixes

dis, pre, re, un

## Root words

care, cover, do, harm, heat, help, honest, try, use, view

## Suffixes

able, ed, es, ful, ing, less, s

*Magic words let you do unbelievable things!*

